

ing the dirge of the desolate and forsaken. "We all do fade as a leaf." So is this mortal life. "In the morning it flourisheth and groweth up, in the evening it is cut down and withereth." "The grace of the fashion of it perisheth." Yet there are trees the leaves of which do not fade; trees "planted by the rivers of water, whose leaves do not wither;" beautiful evergreens, and ever bearers. We have seen them in the world, tho they are rare. The fading of the mortal did not prevent the flourishing of the immortal. There was no withering of moral influence; rather it increased in bountifulness and beauty. Chilling winds and biting frosts of adversity had no effect upon it. Oh how they do relieve the wintry moral desolation, resting the eye and reviving the hope, refreshing the soul with that most significant and most miraculous spectacle, the ultimate perseverance of life in the midst of death, symbolic of the like miracle of grace preserving spiritual life in a world of spiritual death, giving successful defiance to destruction, and glad hope of coming victory over it. The winter cometh on apace; but so does the spring with its radiant resurrection. Nothing pauses; on and on roll the wheels of destiny ushering in new worlds, and new aeons of a new life. Let us manfully march on into them, for God is in them, and where God is there is life, and all is well.

Cuban Relief Fund

A movement for the relief of the starving Cubans, by means of carefully administered industrial enterprise, has just been started in New York, on a plan suggested by Mr. William Howard, which has the cordial indorsement of clergymen of all denominations and of philanthropists. It is intended to substitute opportunities for honest work, to be paid for at the market rates for labor, in place of indiscriminate and harmful gifts of "free soup and old clothes" and to avoid pauperizing the beneficiaries and making the Cubans a nation of beggars.

Mr. Howard's plan, which has been taken up by an association formed for the purpose—the Cuban Industrial Relief Fund—is based on his two years' experience in relief work for the Armenians of Eastern Turkey. In the carrying out of the plan Mr. Howard will have the assistance of the Rev. Herbert M. Allen, who was his chief associate in Armenian relief work. The plan in outline is as follows:

1. To secure good farming land where the need of the poor is the most pressing.
2. To station there a capable American superintendent, with implements, seeds and funds sufficient to employ a considerable number of men.
3. To set at work all the able-bodied poor and pay them full market rates for their labor.
4. To raise common food crops, sell them in the best available market, and with

the proceeds continue the employment as long only as the need exists, using the same money over and over again.

5. To return the farmers to their own former homes as soon as they are physically, mentally and financially able to re establish their plantations.

Contributions for this purpose may be sent to the Cuban Industrial Relief Fund, 75 Tribune Building, New York, or to the Continental Trust Company, 30 Broad Street, New York, which will be the depository of the funds.

Studies in John's Gospel

For the next six months, beginning January 1, 1899, the Sunday school Bible studies will be taken from the gospel of John. This affords a fine opportunity to become better acquainted with the great and fundamental doctrines of our holy Christianity. Above all other gospels, John deals with the deep things of God, bringing all the riches of love right out of the Father's heart. What joy to the Christian heart to study this blessed book. It tells about the Father's love, the Christ of God, the blessed Spirit, the many mansions in the Father's house. It is John's gospel that represents Christ as the bread of life, the light of the world, the water of life,—bread, water, light, three essentials to the physical well being of man. Here too we find the doctrine of the *Logos*, the eternal Wisdom, the Word made flesh, the great and universal doctrine of the new birth, and other great and blessed truths with which every Christian should be acquainted. Special supplemental lessons will be issued during the six months of study in John's gospel, touching some of these fundamental principles of the religion of Christ. Announcements later.

More Church News

We have frequently called the attention of our ministers to the fact that few things in the EVANGELIST are appreciated so much as church news. At the late conference we made an effort to get eighty of our pastors to promise to furnish brief church news at least once a month. This would mean news from twenty different churches each week, and would certainly add very much to the interest of the paper. Our people like to hear what is being done in other parts of the brotherhood. Will not our pastors please respond to this general demand and furnish us news regularly? Brief news is what is wanted. Apropos of this subject we quote the following from a private letter from Brother Haskins:

All the articles in the papers on how our navy ought to do were worth little to the patriot compared with their two hours of doing. Nothing is more inspiring than reports of success all along the line. They say that when the "Brooklyn" went into battle Commodore Schley gave orders that the progress of

the battle should be reported to those below and that they should know all the good news too. If some gunner made a good hit, every stoker in the hold soon knew of it to his own good cheer. Pass down the news. Every passer of coal on the gospel ship is just as much a Christian patriot as the men on the bridges.

Exactly so, brother. The argument is good and the point well taken. Brethren, have you been doing any "shooting," and if so have you hit anything, or are you doing like the Spaniards, shooting at random, able only to hit the "sea?" Practice a little at the guns and throw some shells at the strongholds of satan. Drive a few gospel shells (13 inch) at wickedness in high places, and then report the news to the church at large. How eagerly we looked for the newspapers a few months ago expecting to read of some great victory won over our enemies. A grander, a more glorious warfare is being waged by the people of God, and the entire brotherhood is eagerly waiting to hear the results of battle. "Pass down the news, brethren." A friend of ours writing from Porto Rico for what was formerly our home paper says that when Samson bombarded the city of San Juan some of the shells struck the cemetery and in two instances lifted the dead out of their graves. That is the kind of shooting that counts. It is a terrible warfare that does not allow even the dead to rest at peace in their graves. But that is what the Christian warrior is supposed to do, awaken the dead, that is the dead in sin and trespass, arouse them and bring them forth from the grave of indifference and carelessness in which they have been slumbering too long. Get out your gun and the sword, brother, and begin the warfare in great earnest, to the pulling down of the strong holds of satan. We are warring against principalities and wickedness in high places, and only united effort will win for God and humanity. "Pass down the news, brethren."

A Bad Bargain

"All that a man hath will he give for his life," is a proposition that depends upon the point of view. If we look upon this life as the sum total of existence, embodying its *summum bonum*, perhaps we would be ready to play quits with everything else provided we could play keeps with breath and bacon. Take the world with whatever equipment of moral courage, of hope, of lofty principle it can afford, and when it comes to a cool calculating bargain with Death, the grim Shadow may get all he asks. Men are always willing to give what they conceive to be the less valuable for what they conceive to be the more valuable. On the other hand they are not willing to give the greater for the less, and when a moral enlightenment and a spiritual force intervenes, when a man comes to see that love and faith are greater than life, that truth cannot be exchanged for